

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Visual Collaboration at Heritage Oak**

Video conferencing is a technology that has been around since the nineties, but has become a more widely recognized tool of interaction in our 21<sup>st</sup> century. Heritage Oak has joined this trend, and students, for the first time, will have the opportunity to learn by participating in a multi-way communication platform.

This year, Heritage Oak will be part of the network consisting of Meritas schools, San Roberto in Mexico, Henderson in Nevada and McDowell in Laguna Niguel, with students from Fifth through Eighth grade coming together through this technology to cover a Science, Math and Social Studies class. The theme chosen for this video conferencing is “A Green Life for Une Vie En Rose” (A green Life for a Better Life) focusing on the universal topic of the environment from a business perspective and through cross-curricular instruction.

Students will be able to explore, communicate, analyze and share information and ideas, with students from diverse communities and backgrounds, on this topic which continues to increase in global importance.

In addition, Heritage Oak’s second grade class of Mrs. Julie Mullings is currently participating in an exciting “pen pal” project with Meritas sister school San Roberto in Mexico. The second graders will spend the year writing letters, exchanging photographs, and engaging in classroom projects together. The educational journey will conclude in the spring with a “virtual fieldtrip” through the video conferencing, when the second graders will have the opportunity to see and talk with their pen pals via satellite in each school’s library. It is the teachers’ hope that this friendship will continue and grow for many years to come.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 Blue Ribbon award. The Blue Ribbon, our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.